

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a polynucleotide encoding a mature polypeptide encoded by the DNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. \_\_\_\_\_;

(c) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing to and which is at least 70% identical to the polynucleotide of (a) or (b); and

(d) a polynucleotide fragment of the polynucleotide of (a), (b) or (c).

2. The polynucleotide of Claim 1 encoding the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

3. A vector containing the polynucleotide of Claim 1.

4. A host cell transformed or transfected with the vector of Claim 3.

5. A process for producing a polypeptide comprising: expressing from the host cell of Claim 4 the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide.

6. A process for producing cells capable of expressing a polypeptide comprising transforming or transfecting the cells with the vector of Claim 3.

7. A receptor polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and fragments, analogs and derivatives thereof; and

(ii) a polypeptide encoded by the cDNA of ATCC Deposit No. \_\_\_\_ and fragments, analogs and derivatives of said polypeptide.

8. The polypeptide of Claim 7 wherein the polypeptide has the deduced amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

9. An antibody against the polypeptide of claim 7.

10. A compound which activates the polypeptide of claim 7.

11. A compound which inhibits activation the polypeptide of claim 7.

12. A method for the treatment of a patient having need to activate the polypeptide of Claim 7 comprising: administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 10.

13. A method for the treatment of a patient having need to inhibit the polypeptide of Claim 7 comprising: administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 11.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein said compound is a polypeptide and a therapeutically effective amount of the compound is administered by providing to the patient DNA encoding said agonist and expressing said agonist *in vivo*.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein said compound is a polypeptide and a therapeutically effective amount of the compound is administered by providing to the patient DNA encoding said antagonist and expressing said antagonist *in vivo*.

16. A method for identifying compounds which bind to and activate the receptor polypeptide of claim 7 comprising:

contacting a cell expressing on the surface thereof the receptor polypeptide, said receptor being associated with a second component capable of providing a detectable signal in response to the binding of a compound to said receptor polypeptide, with a compound under conditions sufficient to permit binding of the compound to the receptor polypeptide; and

identifying if the compound is capable of receptor binding by detecting the signal produced by said second component.

17. A method for identifying compounds which bind to and inhibit activation of the polypeptide of claim 7 comprising:

contacting a cell expressing on the surface thereof the receptor polypeptide, said receptor being associated with a second component capable of providing a detectable signal in response to the binding of a compound to said receptor polypeptide, with a ligand known to bind to the receptor polypeptide and a compound to be screened under conditions to permit binding to the receptor polypeptide; and

determining whether the compound inhibits activation of the polypeptide by detecting the absence of a signal generated from the interaction of the ligand with the polypeptide.

18. A method of screening compounds to identify those compounds which bind to the receptor polypeptide of claim 7 comprising:

contacting a cell expressing the receptor on the surface thereof with a compound and an analytically detectable ligand known to bind to the receptor, under conditions permitting binding to the receptor; and  
determining binding of the ligand to the receptor.

19. A process for diagnosing in a patient a disease or a susceptibility to a disease related to an under-expression of the polypeptide of claim 7 comprising:

determining a mutation in the nucleic acid sequence encoding said polypeptide in a sample derived from a patient.

20. A diagnostic process comprising:

analyzing for the presence of the polypeptide of claim 7 in a sample derived from a host.